

**IN THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. – 20.      **(Cancelled)**

21.      **(New)** A metallic pallet of the type for supporting objects for storage and transport, the pallet comprising:

a generally planar top side defining at least three corners;

a generally planar bottom side defining at least three corners;

at least one block extending between the top and bottom sides for holding the top and bottom sides in generally parallel spaced and aligned relation to one another such that each corner of the top side is vertically aligned over a corner of the bottom side in corresponding pairs;

at least three generally hollow corner blocks, each corner block extending between a respective aligned pair of the corners of the top and bottom sides;

the corner blocks each interrupting the generally planar top and bottom sides such that the top and bottom sides do not overlie the corner blocks, whereby corner impacts to the pallet during a crush mode may be absorbed entirely by deformation of the hollow corner blocks without distorting the planar configurations of the top and bottom sides.

22.      **(New)** The pallet of claim 21, wherein at least one hollow corner block has at least one crush cell at an outer corner portion thereof.

Application No: 10/575,637  
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

23. (New) The pallet of claim 22, wherein the crush cell comprises an internal wall structure of the hollow corner block.

24. (New) The pallet of claim 22, wherein the crush cell has a generally cylindrical shape.

25. (New) The pallet of claim 22, wherein the crush cell is a first crush cell arranged at the outer corner of the hollow corner block, and further including a second crush cell arranged sequentially from the first crush cell toward an inner corner portion of at least one hollow corner block.

26. (New) The pallet of claim 25, further comprising a third crush cell arranged sequentially from the second crush cell toward the inner corner portion of the at least one hollow corner block.

27. (New) The pallet of claim 21, wherein the hollow corner blocks comprise a wall having a groove which changes shape during a crush mode of the corner block.

28. (New) The pallet of claim 21, wherein a cross member at an outer perimeter of the pallet has different portions, each portion having a different wall thickness.

29. (New) The pallet of claim 21, wherein the top side includes a plurality of cross members extending between and interconnecting the at least one block and the corner blocks, and wherein the corner blocks and the cross members are constructed of extruded aluminum.

30. (New) The pallet of claim 21, wherein the top side includes a plurality of cross members extending between and interconnecting the at least one block and the corner blocks,

Application No: 10/575,637  
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

and wherein at least one corner block includes a torque tower portion disposed at the point of connection to an adjacent cross member.

31. (New) The pallet of claim 30, wherein the torque towers comprises a notch in an outer wall of the hollow block and an internal wall structure connected to the outer wall by the notch.

32. (New) The pallet of claim 21, wherein the top side includes a plurality of cross members extending between and interconnecting the at least one block and the corner blocks, and wherein the bottom side includes a plurality of cross members extending between and interconnecting the at least one block and the corner blocks.

33. (New) A metallic pallet of the type for supporting objects for storage and transport, the pallet comprising:

a generally planar top side having a substantially rectangular configuration defining four corners;

a generally planar bottom side having a substantially rectangular configuration defining four corners;

five blocks spaced apart from one another, each block extending between the top and bottom sides for holding the top and bottom sides in generally parallel spaced and aligned relation to one another such that the corners of the top side are vertically aligned over the corners of the bottom side in corresponding pairs;

four generally hollow corner blocks, each of the corner blocks extending between a respective aligned pair of the corners of the top and bottom sides;

the top side including a plurality of cross members extending between and interconnecting the blocks and the corner blocks; the top side further including a plurality of ladder members extending between and interconnecting the respective cross members;

the bottom side including a plurality of cross members extending between and interconnecting the blocks and the corner blocks;

the corner blocks each interrupting the generally planar top and bottom sides such that the top and bottom sides do not overlie the corner blocks, whereby corner impacts to the pallet during a crush mode may be absorbed entirely by deformation of the hollow corner blocks without distorting the planar configurations of the top and bottom sides.